



Reference No. 6.37

# WAGE RATES INDEXES : SEPTEMBER 1974 (PRELIMINARY STATEMENT)

## MAIN FEATURES

In the twelve months ended September 1974 the wage rates indexes for Australia increased by:

- 30.9 per cent to \$99.43 a week for adult males
- 44.3 per cent to \$87.27 a week for adult females

Major increases in September affecting the wage rates indexes included —

- Federal Metal Industry award increase of \$9 a week and corresponding increases in other Federal and State awards.
- Movement toward full equal pay for females in Federal and State awards and the increase in the minimum wage for adult females to 90 percent of the corresponding adult male rate.
- State transport workers award increases in New South Wales and Victoria.
- Queensland state basic wage and minimum wage increases of \$1.80 a week for adult males and \$1.35 a week for adult females.
- Clerks awards increases in Western Australia.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

This statement contains figures of weighted average minimum weekly and hourly wage rates and index numbers for adult males and adult females for September 1974 and corresponding figures for some earlier months. More information on these statistics will appear later in the monthly bulletin *Wage Rates and Earnings* (Reference No. 6.16) which also contains

explanatory notes covering definitions, scope of the statistics, etc.

2. The wage rates used in the compilation of the indexes are the lowest rates for a full week's work (excluding overtime) prescribed for particular occupations in awards or determinations of Federal or State industrial authorities; in collective agreements registered with these authorities; or in unregistered collective agreements where these are dominant in particular industries. Because the indexes are designed to measure movements in prescribed minimum rates of *wages* as distinct from *salaries*, those awards, etc. which relate solely or mainly to salary earners are excluded. Because of delays in the receipt of notification of changes in wage rates as well as retrospective changes to rates, figures for July 1973 and subsequent months are subject to revision. As such revisions are made they are published in the normal monthly tables of this statement.

3. The indexes are designed to measure trends in wage rates in current awards, etc. excluding the effects of changes in the relative importance of industries, awards and occupations. The weighted average wage rates shown in these tables are therefore indexes expressed in money terms, and do not purport to be actual current averages. Similarly, neither these weighted average wage rates nor the corresponding index numbers measure the relative levels of average current wage rates as between States or industries.

TABLE 1. — WEEKLY AND HOURLY WAGE RATES : ADULT MALES AND ADULT FEMALES  
ALL INDUSTRY GROUPS, AUSTRALIA (a)

Weighted average minimum weekly rates payable for a full week's work (excluding overtime), as prescribed in awards, determinations and collective agreements; weighted average minimum hourly rates payable; and index numbers of wage rates.

End of —	Adult males (b)					Adult females (c)				
	Weekly wage rates			Hourly wage rates		Weekly wage rates			Hourly wage rates	
	Wage rates \$	Annual change(d) %	Index Nos. (1954 = 100) (e)	Wage rates (cents)	Index Nos. (1954 = 100) (e)	Wage rates \$	Annual change(d) %	Index Nos. (1954 = 100) (e)	Wage rates (cents)	Index Nos. (1954 = 100) (e)
1973 —										
September	75.95	15.1	268.9	189.28	267.5	60.49	18.1	303.9	152.49	303.9
October	76.44	15.6	270.6	190.53	269.3	61.79	20.2	310.4	155.75	310.4
November	76.99	15.4	272.6	191.94	271.3	63.12	22.0	317.0	159.10	317.1
December	77.59	14.6	274.7	193.54	273.6	64.99	24.9	326.4	163.81	326.5
1974 —										
January	78.26	14.7	277.1	195.24	276.0	66.12	25.6	332.1	166.67	332.2
February	78.54	14.3	278.1	195.98	277.0	66.53	25.9	334.2	167.71	334.3
March	79.45	15.4	281.3	198.31	280.3	66.80	26.0	335.5	168.38	335.6
April	84.99	23.0	300.9	212.54	300.4	69.82	29.9	350.7	176.01	350.8
May	92.42	26.1	327.3	230.36	325.6	76.80	31.6	385.8	193.59	385.9
June	93.90	26.1	332.5	234.16	331.0	80.18	36.2	402.8	202.13	402.9
July	95.70	27.9	338.9	238.76	337.5	82.97	39.7	416.8	209.14	416.9
August	96.16	27.2	340.5	239.95	339.2	85.63	43.2	430.1	215.85	430.2
September	99.43	30.9	352.1	248.35	351.0	87.27	44.3	438.4	220.00	438.5

(a) Figures subject to revision. See explanatory notes above. (b) Excludes rural industry. Hourly rates also exclude shipping and stevedoring. The former is not included in the wage rates index and for the latter definite particulars for the computation of hourly wage rates are not available. (c) Excludes rural industry; mining and quarrying; and building and construction. (d) Percentage change over the same month of the previous year. These percentages may fluctuate from month to month owing to the timing of significant award changes. (e) Base : Weighted average wage rate, Australia, year 1954 = 100.



TABLE 2. - WEEKLY WAGE RATES : ADULT MALES, INDUSTRY GROUPS, 30 SEPTEMBER 1974 (a)

Weighted average minimum weekly rates payable for a full week's work (excluding overtime), as prescribed in awards, determinations and collective agreements; and index numbers of wage rates.

	Rates of wage (\$)							Annual change (b) %	Index Nos. (Base 1954 = 100) (c)
Industry group	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia	Australia	Australia
Mining and quarrying (d)	127.09	95.93	116.63	98.10	89.88	93.05	115.22	41.1	408.0
Manufacturing —									
Engineering, metals, vehicles, etc.	95.64	99.57	105.52	97.52	95.82	97.60	97.90	35.7	346.6
Textiles, clothing and footwear	90.69	91.87	94.11	88.98	92.38	86.51	91.35	29.9	323.5
Food, drink and tobacco	94.64	94.98	95.84	95.90	90.64	92.19	94.84	28.5	335.8
Sawmilling, furniture, etc.	93.04	91.99	101.47	95.48	86.32	89.72	93.75	31.1	331.9
Paper, printing, etc.	98.45	103.90	110.45	97.68	105.44	87.26	100.86	26.3	357.1
Other manufacturing	93.92	95.99	99.94	93.05	93.80	92.02	94.94	29.2	336.2
<i>All manufacturing groups</i>	<i>94.87</i>	<i>97.10</i>	<i>101.46</i>	<i>96.11</i>	<i>93.51</i>	<i>92.76</i>	<i>96.27</i>	<i>32.1</i>	<i>340.9</i>
Building and construction	94.92	105.84	101.65	99.39	96.78	96.92	99.42	27.7	352.0
Railway services	97.64	94.31	105.22	98.02	88.77	99.24	98.04	37.5	347.1
Road and air transport	103.86	99.32	98.71	100.36	101.29	101.78	101.41	34.4	359.1
Shipping and stevedoring (e)	117.35	117.17	110.72	110.20	118.86	115.31	115.34	23.2	408.4
Communication	121.15	122.44	120.50	120.56	122.18	118.80	121.36	19.3	429.7
Wholesale and retail trade	100.13	101.16	100.82	96.34	95.00	96.07	99.60	29.5	352.7
Public authority (n.e.i.) and community and business services	97.09	100.99	105.36	90.38	89.74	104.77	98.37	30.2	348.3
Amusement, hotels, personal service, etc.	95.03	92.54	89.91	91.56	84.28	88.26	92.48	32.4	327.5
All industry groups (f)	99.10	99.85	103.26	97.95	95.23	96.85	99.43	30.9	352.1

(a) Figures subject to revision. See explanatory notes on page 1. (b) Percentage change over the same month of the previous year. These percentages may fluctuate from month to month owing to the timing of significant award changes. (c) Base : Weighted average weekly wage rate, Australia, year 1954 = 100. (d) For mining, rates of wage used are those prescribed for the principal mining centres and include lead bonuses, etc. (e) Includes rates of wage (and value of keep) for occupations in the coastal shipping service, other than masters, officers and engineers. (f) Excludes rural industry.

TABLE 3. - WEEKLY WAGE RATES : ADULT FEMALES, INDUSTRY GROUPS, 30 SEPTEMBER 1974 (a)

Weighted average minimum weekly rates payable for a full week's work (excluding overtime), as prescribed in awards, determinations and collective agreements; and index numbers of wage rates.

Industry group	Rates of wage (\$)							Annual change (b) %	Index Nos. (Base 1954 = 100) (c)
	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia	Australia	Australia
Manufacturing –									
Engineering, metals, vehicles, etc.	92.99	92.51	89.83	84.63	86.39	84.85	91.54	47.0	459.8
Textiles, clothing and footwear	81.47	80.28	80.04	79.67	82.23	76.74	80.69	51.2	405.3
Food, drink and tobacco	86.85	85.95	84.28	81.18	72.31	88.51	85.20	50.1	428.0
Other manufacturing	87.20	86.88	88.64	82.05	85.44	72.02	86.63	50.4	435.1
<i>All manufacturing groups</i>	<i>85.87</i>	<i>83.92</i>	<i>83.96</i>	<i>82.08</i>	<i>81.18</i>	<i>80.85</i>	<i>84.49</i>	<i>50.0</i>	<i>424.4</i>
Transport and communication	93.04	96.53	99.29	96.57	96.49	103.83	95.75	41.0	480.9
Wholesale and retail trade	96.13	90.37	90.32	82.94	86.59	82.01	91.45	41.0	459.4
Public authority (n.e.i.) and community and business services	89.18	93.30	84.44	79.17	79.85	81.46	88.33	35.8	443.7
Amusement, hotels, personal service, etc.	87.20	84.71	75.78	83.34	78.36	81.57	84.04	39.8	422.1
All industry groups (d)	89.31	86.82	86.28	83.20	83.51	82.62	87.27	44.3	438.4

(a) Figures subject to revision. See explanatory notes on page 1. (b) Percentage change over the same month of the previous year. These percentages may fluctuate from month to month owing to the timing of significant award changes. (c) Base : Weighted average weekly wage rate, Australia, year 1954 = 100. (d) Excludes rural industry; mining and quarrying; and building and construction.



TABLE 4. — WEEKLY WAGE RATES : ADULT MALES AND ADULT FEMALES, ALL GROUPS (a)(\$)

Weighted average minimum weekly rates payable for a full week's work (excluding overtime), as prescribed in awards, determinations and collective agreements.

End of —	N.S. W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia		
							Federal awards, etc.	State awards, etc.	All awards, etc.
ADULT MALES (b)									
1973 —									
September	75.95	76.08	77.49	73.92	75.04	75.84	76.29	75.58	75.95
October	76.43	76.72	77.89	74.29	75.33	76.20	76.61	76.25	76.44
November	77.03	76.91	79.67	74.49	75.45	76.25	76.78	77.22	76.99
December	77.97	77.37	79.81	75.18	75.63	76.57	77.23	77.99	77.59
1974 —									
January	78.20	78.11	81.70	75.86	76.13	76.83	77.45	79.13	78.26
February	78.59	78.36	81.80	76.03	76.51	77.01	77.65	79.50	78.54
March	79.98	78.46	83.64	76.26	77.18	77.68	78.60	80.36	79.45
April	85.85	85.37	85.13	82.95	81.71	83.24	86.93	82.89	84.99
May	93.25	91.62	94.76	90.18	89.35	92.44	93.73	91.02	92.42
June	94.20	93.86	96.43	91.85	90.28	93.38	95.21	92.48	93.90
July	95.61	96.25	98.64	93.23	92.09	94.17	96.31	95.04	95.70
August	95.70	96.76	99.97	94.07	92.44	94.42	96.68	95.61	96.16
September	99.10	99.85	103.26	97.95	95.23	96.85	101.15	97.58	99.43
ADULT FEMALES (c)									
1973 —									
September	62.33	59.31	58.83	58.23	60.56	58.55	58.04	62.58	60.49
October	63.69	60.93	59.55	58.77	61.84	59.17	59.59	63.65	61.79
November	65.79	61.23	62.41	59.11	62.28	59.41	60.08	65.70	63.12
December	67.98	62.70	63.93	62.03	63.50	60.86	62.53	67.07	64.99
1974 —									
January	68.38	64.19	65.78	64.27	65.09	62.32	63.20	68.60	66.12
February	68.62	65.01	65.83	64.67	65.16	62.61	63.32	69.26	66.53
March	68.79	65.13	66.78	64.95	65.56	63.22	63.63	69.49	66.80
April	71.73	68.80	69.04	67.74	67.27	65.60	69.14	70.41	69.82
May	81.07	74.25	72.74	72.82	73.69	74.14	75.04	78.30	76.80
June	82.40	80.42	75.52	77.80	75.41	76.06	77.99	82.04	80.18
July	86.11	82.38	78.65	79.06	77.88	77.87	78.57	86.71	82.97
August	88.22	85.21	84.11	81.34	79.30	79.01	82.94	87.92	85.63
September	89.31	86.82	86.28	83.20	83.51	82.62	85.31	88.94	87.27

(a) Figures subject to revision. See explanatory notes on page 1. (b) Excludes rural industry. (c) Excludes rural industry; mining and quarrying; and building and construction.

D. V. YOUNGMAN  
Acting Commonwealth Statistician

Australian Bureau of Statistics  
Canberra, A.C.T. 2600

NOTE. Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning Mr G. Laurie on 63 9111 extension 2055 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Australian Bureau of Statistics.



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